

Ingratitude

via *Something To Think About*

A tourist was watching some women in Mexico who were washing their clothes at a spot where hot and cold springs bubbled side by side. They boiled the garments in the hot springs and rinsed them in the cold. The tourist said to his guide, "I suppose the people here think Mother Nature is generous to them, do they not?" "No, Senor," was the reply, "just the apposite. There is grumbling because she does not supply soap." (Ruth Paxson)

One of the leading sins in America today is ingratitude. For many years we have sung the beautiful song: "God Bless America," and this He has done over and over, but it seems as a general rule that the more we receive, the less it is appreciated.

During the personal ministry of Christ, He met ten men that had the terrible disease of leprosy. When they saw Jesus, they lifted up their voices and cried: "*Master, have mercy on us.*" Jesus sent them on their way to the priest, but as they journeyed, they were cleansed! Can you imagine how they felt the moment they realized that they were healed? This was perhaps the most dreaded disease of that age. It destroyed the body gradually, day by day as well as making one a social outcast. What a burden must have been lifted from these ten men! You would think that all ten of them would be so grateful that they would rush back to Jesus to thank Him. How many returned to thank Him? Was it nine, five, or two? No, only one turned back: "*and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks*" (Luke 17:15-16). There must have been disappointment in Jesus' voice when He asked: "*were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*" (v. 17).

God must look down on us many times today and ask: "*Where are the nine?*" Shakespeare wrote these lines: "Blow, blow, thou winter winds, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude. Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky, thou dost not bite so nigh, as benefits forgot."

One cannot be a true Christian without having thanksgiving to God for everything. David is described as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), and he gave thanks constantly to God. It has been said: "Every furrow in the Book of Psalms is sown with the seeds of thanksgivings." (Jeremy Taylor)

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